

## **REMARKS**

### **I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Claims 12-22, 24, 26-28, and 32-49 are pending in the application. The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-22, 32, and 33. By this Amendment, allowed independent claims 12, 18, and 32 are amended to correct minor informalities. Claim 24 is hereby amended to incorporate all of the features recited in claim 23 and to more particularly recite the features of the radiation crosslinkable composition of the device. Claim 23 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawn claims 1-11 and 25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of such claims in a related continuation or divisional application. Claim 26 is amended to more particularly recite the features of the article suitable for sterilization, surface modification, or surface grafting. Claim 34 is amended to more particularly recite the features of the radiation crosslinked composition made by irradiating a radiation crosslinkable composition. New claims 35-49 are added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

### **II. NEW CLAIMS 35-49**

New claims 35-49 are believed to be generic and/or include the elected species. Support for the new claims 35-49 is believed to be provided according to the following table. The cited portions of the originally filed specification are only examples of possible sources of support. Other portions of the specification may also provide support.

<b>Claim</b>	<b>Support provided, for example, at:</b>
35	Original claim 32; Paragraph bridging pages 15-16; 1 <sup>st</sup> full paragraph on page 37
38	Original claim 32; Paragraph bridging pages 15-16; Paragraph bridging pages 39-40; 1 <sup>st</sup> full paragraph on page 37
41, 44, 47	Original claim 32; Paragraph bridging pages 39-40; 1 <sup>st</sup> full paragraph on page 37
36, 39, 42, 45, 48	First full paragraph on page 35

37, 40, 43, 46, 49	Original claims 23-24; Paragraph bridging pages 19-20
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Entry and consideration of new claims 35-49 is respectfully requested.

### III. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In numbered paragraph 3 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action dated November 29, 2007, claims 23-24, 26-28, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,998,551 and 5,993,415 to O'Neil *et al.* ("O'Neil '551" and "O'Neil '415" respectively) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0018866 to Lee *et al.* ("Lee"). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution, claims 24, 26, and 34 are hereby amended to more particularly recite the features of the claimed invention. Claim 23 is canceled. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 24, as amended, recites *inter alia* "[a] device comprising: a radiation crosslinked composition made by irradiating a radiation crosslinkable composition with energy from a radiation source . . . wherein ***said radiation crosslinked composition is in the form of an article selected from the group consisting of heat shrinkable tubing and heat-shrinkable film.***" (emphasis added). Claim 34 similarly recites "[a] radiation crosslinked composition made by irradiating a radiation crosslinkable composition . . . ***wherein said radiation crosslinked composition is in the form of an article selected from the group consisting of heat shrinkable tubing and heat-shrinkable film.***" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that none of O'Neil '551, O'Neil '415, or Lee, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a radiation crosslinked composition in the form of heat shrinkable tubing or heat-shrinkable film. Accordingly, claims 24 and 34 are believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 26, as amended, recites *inter alia* "a monomer cross-linker selected from the group consisting of methacrylate monomer crosslinkers, acrylate monomer crosslinkers, and combinations thereof." None of O'Neil '551, O'Neil '415, or Lee, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the monomer crosslinkers recited in claim 26. Claims 27 and 28 depend from

claim 26 and are submitted as being allowable for at least the same reasons. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to new independent claims 35, 38, 41, 44, and 47, such claims are believed to be allowable for substantially the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 24 and 34. That is, none of O'Neil '551, O'Neil '415, and Lee, either alone or in combination, are believed to teach or suggest the heat shrink features and methods as recited in claims 35, 38, 41, 44, and 47. Claims 36-37, 39-40, 42-43, 45-46, and 48-49 depend from one of the listed independent claims and are submitted as being allowable for at least the same reasons. Consideration and entry of claims 35-49 is respectfully requested.

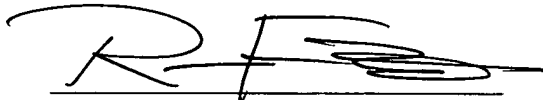
#### IV. CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection are believed to have been properly overcome, traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice indicating the allowability of claims 12-22, 24, 26-28, and 32-49 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned Representative if necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

Prompt consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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